

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As the below named inventor, I declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I believe I am the original, and first inventor of the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled *Apparatus and Method for Sealing a Conduit*, the specification of which (check one):

 X is attached hereto; or

 was filed on as

Application Serial No.

and was amended on (if applicable);

that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; and that I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

| <u>Number</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Date</u> <u>Filed</u> | <u>Priority</u> <u>Claimed</u> <u>(Yes) (No)</u> |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| NONE | | | |

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to us to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| <u>Application Serial Number</u> | <u>Date Filed</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| NONE | | |

I hereby appoint:

R. William Beard, Reg. No. 39,903; Ronald L. Chichester, Reg. No. 36,765; Claude E. Cooke, Jr., Reg. No. 34,142; Roger J. Fulghum, Reg. No. 39,678; Michael Hawes, Reg. No. 38,487; Carey Hetherington, Reg. No. P47,646; Paul N. Katz, Reg. No. 35,917; Michael Locklar, Reg. No. 44,878; Mitchell D. Lukin, Reg. No. 30,772; Jerry W. Mills, Reg. No. 23,005; Paul R. Morico, Reg. No. 35,960; Robert Neuner, Reg. No. 24,316; Scott F. Partridge, Reg. No. 28,142; Bruce W. Slayden II, Reg. No. 33,790; Howard L. Speight, Reg. No. 37,733; Lori D. Stiffler, Reg. No. 36,939; Khannan Suntharam, Reg. No. 45,144; Melissa J. Szanto, Reg. No. 40,834; G. Alan Witte, Reg. No. 36,061

all of the firm of Baker Botts L.L.P., my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and to file and prosecute any international patent applications filed thereon before any international authorities.

Send Correspondence To:

Baker Botts L.L.P.
One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana
Houston, Texas 77002-4995

Direct Telephone Calls To:

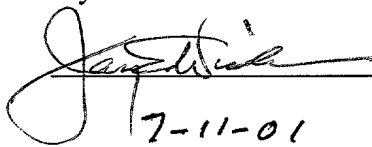
Paul R. Morico
at (713) 229-1732
Atty. Docket No. 002905.0110

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Full name of the first inventor

Jay E. Widman

Inventor's Signature



Date

7-11-01

Residence (City, County, State)

Kingwood, Harris, Texas

Citizenship

United States of America

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002905.0110

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Jay E. Widman

Entitled: Apparatus and Method for Sealing a Conduit

Serial No.:

Filed on:

Potential Assignee: Houston Wire & Cable Company

Registered Attorney: Paul R. Morico, Baker Botts L.L.P. (023640)

Attorney Docket No.: 002905.0110

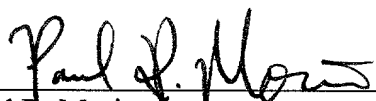
ASSERTION OF SMALL ENTITY STATUS UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.27(c)(1)

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Inventor (*Jay E. Widman*), and potential assignee (*Houston Wire & Cable Company*), assert that they are all small entities that qualify for small entity status under 13 C.F.R. 121, 37 C.F.R. 1.27(a)(1), and 37 C.F.R. 1.27(a)(2).

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

Date: July 13, 2001

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